

Sweet Onion Christian Learning Center Inc.

P.O. Box 152 Mt. Vernon, GA 30445

October 22nd, 2021

Dear Friends of the Sweet Onion Christian Learning Center,

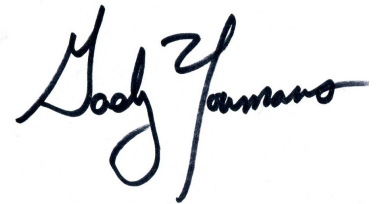
I hope that this letter finds you well and that this fall has started off in the direction that you had hoped! Here at the Christian Learning Center we are excited that this school year has gotten underway and that everything has found its way back into a routine.

Each year near the beginning of the semester we like to do something that helps us know where our students are, but also to create a small tool for believers who really want to “know” where the students in our community stand with their relationship with Christ as well as their general knowledge of Him. This year we were able to survey many students from VHS, and the results are in. While we know that no survey is 100% accurate unless you survey every single person in the population, we were able to survey well over the statistically reliable threshold to trust the results. While data does not explain causes for change, the fact that there is significant change should cause all in our community who care about the Kingdom Work of Christ to stop and pause to ask, “why?” and “what can I do?”. We hope you will find the information useful in your attempts to reach students in our area.

Why did we do this to begin with you might ask? It only takes mere seconds to Google “stats” concerning youth and Christianity from a nationwide perspective, but our students aren’t nation wide... You can easily find stats concerning the “bible belt,” but our students are only in a certain part of that belt... With a little effort and time you may even find some stats referencing South Georgia students... BUT where are you going to find statistics about Vidalia, GA and our area school students? It’s easy to think, “Well, the world is going away from Jesus,” and miss the reality of what is going on in “our little world” across the street. This data shows a progression downward over the past 5-6 years in regards to a typical “Christian” worldview and practice.

Attached you will find a document with the highlighted results of the surveys. Please feel free to email me or call or even Facebook message with questions about the results. I hope that this will be a tool you can use to reach students, that pastors and youth pastors can use to grow their youth ministry, and MOST IMPORTANTLY I hope that the results we found can be used to light a fire in your congregations and families to do even more to REACH students in our area for Christ, to make disciples that follow hard after Jesus!!

Thank you for your time and prayers, without which we would not be able to serve the students of our area. To those of you who support this ministry financially, you have enabled over 200 different students the chance to study the Bible at school over 100 hours each semester! Thank you!



Gady Youmans
Director/Teacher SOCLC
gady@sweetonionclc.org
www.SweetOnionCLC.org
912-585-1290 (cell)



Sweet Onion
Christian Learning Center

* Probability based on responses to multiple “red flag” questions about beliefs concerning salvation & what it means to be saved. Questions such as: “Do you have to be a Christian to go to heaven?” – “Is salvation by faith alone in Jesus?” – “Do you believe that there is only one way to heaven?”

Sweet Onion Christian Learning Center

Survey Results from School Years: 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021 of Vidalia High School Students

Highlighted Results:	2015	2016	2018	2021
• Number of Students surveyed (10-15% of all students)	92	90	97	112
• Self identifies as a Christian	98%	90%	88%	85%
• Considers themselves “VERY” devoted to their religion	50%	57%	37%	42%
• Reads the Bible once or LESS per month	44%	44%	46%	52%
• Attends Sunday School “seldom” or “not at all”	51%	59%	56%	80%
• Attends Sunday Church Services almost always...	67%	58%	41%	31%
• Believes Church attendance is important... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Church attendance decrease correlates with Covid related declines 	87%	82%	80%	69%
• Believes the Bible is 100% truth & can be trusted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This means nearly half of young adults believe the Bible contains error 	82%	73%	62%	60%
• Believes that to go to heaven you MUST be Christian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are OFFICIALLY the MINORITY view... 	82%	64%	63%	49%
• Believes that there is only ONE way to heaven <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Again, OFFICIALLY the MINORITY view... 	77%	59%	56%	49%
• Believes that God and the Bible define SIN...	82%	67%	55%	59%
• Believes that God and the Bible DOESN'T define Sin... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We must stop assuming people even know what SIN is... 	4%	14%	14%	18%
• Believes that Salvation is BY FAITH ALONE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This should shock you!!! 	41%	28%	25%	20%
• Admitted they are UNSURE of eternal destiny	21%	32%	36%	26%
• Believe they are going to Heaven <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yet only how many believe salvation is by FAITH ALONE? There is a disconnect between their beliefs and reality according to God’s Word. Part of this is because in this survey some identified as other religions that have previously been a tiny population. (Ex. Wiccans, Hindus, Muslims, various cults...) 	74%	63%	56%	66%
• *Probably/maybe has a genuine saving relationship with Jesus:%	%	%	%	19%
• *Probably DOESN'T have a saving relationship with Jesus:% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wow... This should convict all of us to do MORE to reach this generation!! 	%	%	%	81%

**How many students does this make at each school
that might just be dead in their sins if there are around 800 students?**
Approximately 648 high school students at VHS are un-saved...or 4 out of 5...

* Probability based on responses to multiple “red flag” questions about beliefs concerning salvation & what it means to be saved. Questions such as: “Do you have to be a Christian to go to heaven?” – “Is salvation by faith alone in Jesus?” – “Do you believe that there is only one way to heaven?”

Some Other Questions Asked During Survey

Survey Results from School Year: 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021

Vidalia High School

<u>Highlighted Results:</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2021</u>
• Parents Identify as Christian	95%	94%	95%	91%
○ Ironically, the data for students has dropped 13% but parent identification has stayed pretty steady... This indicates a possible falling away of a student generation while the parents are not for some reason.				
• Believes Jesus is the Messiah/Savior	94%	83%	79%	78%
○ At this rate, the view of Jesus being the Savior will be the minority view in 10 years in Vidalia, GA.				
• Believes the Devil is REAL	97%	87%	87%	84%
○ 1 out of 8 students doesn't even know if the Devil is real...				
• Believes God is concerned with every aspect of our lives	89%	81%	75%	60%
○ Hopelessness... that's what this tells me. I have no hope if I do not believe God cares for me. This was one of the biggest drops. How can we better portray and articulate HOPE!?				
• Believes Jesus is God and Man	88%	86%	72%	72%
• Believes in reincarnation after death	1%	1%	1%	11%

* Probability based on responses to multiple "red flag" questions about beliefs concerning salvation & what it means to be saved. Questions such as: "Do you have to be a Christian to go to heaven?" – "Is salvation by faith alone in Jesus?" – "Do you believe that there is only one way to heaven?"